

**From:** Douglas W. Lantz  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 2:53pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Attorney General John Ashcroft

US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to express my views surrounding the Microsoft settlement. I believe that the agreement is fair and reasonable, and would like to see the issue put behind us. Not only does the settlement address the concerns that brought about the case in the first place, but it also sets up guidelines of how to deal with possible future problems. Microsoft has made unprecedented concessions in an effort to end this debacle, and I will outline just a few of them for you.

Under the settlement, Microsoft has agreed to grant computer makers new rights to configure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software in direct competition with programs included within Windows. Microsoft will document and disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows operating system products. Also, Microsoft has agreed to license Windows to the twenty largest computer manufacturers, which make up a vast majority of PC sales.

There will always be those that try to pull down whoever is on top, just as there will always be those that support it. I feel that if this case is judged by the value of its merits, rather than the depth of the lobbyists' pockets, it is apparent that the original problems have been solved. I believe that the suit has been pushed by competitors rather than consumers. It has negatively affected our entire industry. In short, three years has been long enough. It is time to allow Microsoft and the IT industry as a whole to return their focus to innovation, rather than litigation. We must ensure our country's place in the world technology market, and the best way to do it is by moving on. I thank you for your time and consideration of my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Lantz, President

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